

Through his leadership, farmers across America now control a powerhouse supplier of agricultural inputs—feed, seed, crop nutrients, and protection products as well as state-of-the-art technical advice and expertise.

Duane learned his love of agriculture and the people who work in it from growing up on a family farm near Eagle Grove, IA. Like most farm kids, Duane was active in 4-H and FFA. He earned a bushel full of ribbons from showing pigs and calves, and his 4-H projects focused on helping improve his dad's hog operation.

Through 4-H and school, Duane also began honing his leadership skills. He was elected president of the Webster County Boys' 4-H Clubs, and during his senior year at Eagle Grove High School he was chosen Mr. Future Business Executive of 1963 by the Future Business Leaders of America.

It was in high school that he met his future wife Mary Voigt. They now have two sons, Christian and Nicholas, and grandson, Jon.

After high school, he headed to Iowa State University where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics.

In 1970, Duane was hired by Land O'Lakes as a corporate planner. It was there where his illustrious career began. In 1978, he was named vice president of the petroleum division—the youngest vice president in the company's history. He rose through the ranks, heading up feed, seed, agronomy, international development and member services. By 1993, he was executive vice president and managing Land O'Lakes combined ag. services and dairy foods businesses. During his 5 years at the helm, total sales of Land O'Lakes doubled.

By the time he retired in December last year, Duane had helped build one of the most dynamic cooperative business systems in the world.

Duane has dedicated his life and his career to the agriculture industry. His legacy is a strong ag-supply cooperative system owned and controlled by those who do business with Land O'Lakes. Through his leadership, America will continue to be the bread basket of the world.

All of this is why it has been an honor for me to share his accomplishments today. We thank Duane Halverson. He deserves it.●

#### RECOGNITION OF ISIDORE NEWMAN SCHOOL

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Isidore Newman School as it celebrates 100 years of educating the children of New Orleans.

When the school opened its doors on October 3, 1904, it was in a class by itself. Then called Isidore Newman Manual Training School, it adopted a philosophy, in vogue at the time, that teaching children skills such as sewing and woodworking would enhance their minds. It was the only school of its

kind in New Orleans. On Newman's opening day, the principal, James Edwin Addicott, explained the little-understood teaching concept to *The New Orleans Times-Democrat*: "The manual training school does not attempt to teach any particular art or trade. What it does attempt is to educate the hand as an invaluable and necessary aid in the development of the brain."

The school was unique for another reason: its unusual assortment of pupils. On that historic first day, the young Mr. Addicott stood at the doors of his brandnew school and waited for 102 children to arrive from a Jewish orphanage a few blocks away. It was for them that Isidore Newman, a German-Jewish, rags-to-riches immigrant, had endowed the school. But Mr. Addicott also waited for 23 children from private homes, Jewish and non-Jewish. For Mr. Newman had specified that this school be open to all children, regardless of religion.

The school's reputation for academic excellence and top-notch facilities spread, and within a few years, children from private homes outnumbered those from the orphanage. Gathered together in this unique environment—for New Orleans society was quite segregated at the time—the children did just what the founders dreamed they would do: they got along. The school became a haven of inclusiveness, and friendships formed on the playground lasted a lifetime.

By the 1930s, Newman had become a college preparatory school, no longer offering courses in the manual arts. By the 1940s, the orphanage had closed. But Newman continued to be the most religiously mixed prep school in the city.

Newman's first century has been filled with triumphs, tragedies, and lots of laughs. The school has always felt like a large, extended family, where the development of the individual and the individual's devotion to the whole are stressed equally. Newman instills in its students the value of service to one's community, while at the same time encouraging the personal growth, intellectual and otherwise, of each child. The results have been remarkable. In 1985, Newman was recognized as 1 of 281 exemplary schools in the United States by the U.S. Secretary of Education. It was one of only seventeen private, nonsectarian schools chosen. And Newman has been a model of diversity. In 1968, Newman became the first private, nonparochial school in New Orleans to desegregate.

Today, Newman is an accredited, independent, coeducational school serving more than 1,100 students from prekindergarten through 12th grade. The school's record of academic excellence is on a par with the best prep schools in the Nation. Its graduates have gone on to the finest colleges and universities. They have presided over Federal courts. They counsel Presidents. They write bestsellers. They are

Rhodes scholars. They play professional sports. They run large media conglomerates and Fortune 500 companies, and they have been generous, important philanthropists and civic leaders in New Orleans and beyond.

I congratulate the school on reaching this important milestone, and I wish Newman all the best for another century of excellence.●

#### TRIBUTE TO PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHEERLEADING SQUAD

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today in the Senate to pay tribute to the Paul Laurence Dunbar High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad from Lexington, KY. On February 8, the Paul Laurence Dunbar High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad won the Universal Cheerleading Association's National Championship in Orlando, FL.

For the young women on this squad this is not just a trophy, it is an affirmation that with hard work and determination, anything is possible. To accomplish this goal the members not only have to juggle long practices and games, but they continue to achieve academic excellence. Not only are these young women excellent athletes and students but they pride themselves in giving back to their community for all the support they have received by doing community service, fundraising, and school public relations. The citizens of Lexington, KY, are fortunate to have the 2004 National Champions living and learning in their community. Their example of hard work and determination should be followed by all in the Commonwealth.

I am very proud of the accomplishments these young women have made. I would like to congratulate the members of the Paul Laurence Dunbar High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad for their success. But also, I want to congratulate their peers, coaches, teachers, administrators, and parents for the support and sacrifices they've made to help the Paul Laurence Dunbar High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad make their dreams a reality.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations, a treaty and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)